Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009]   Figure 1 illustrates ~~an~~ a conventional endoscopic imaging system;

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024]   The light source unit 21 further includes a microcontroller 26, an RFID tag 27, an RF transceiver 28, an antenna 29, a power supply 30, a timer 31, one or more input devices 32, and one or more output devices 33. The light source unit 21 may also contain components that are not shown or described, which are not germane to the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031]   In one embodiment, the RF transceiver 28 is the HTRC11001T reader chip from Philips Semiconductors ("Philips"), and the RFID tag 27 is the HT2DC20S20M tag from Philips. In this embodiment, the RF transceiver 28 transmits a 50-100 V peak-to-peak sinusoidal wave at a frequency of about 125 kHz; the capacitor 34 has a capacitance value of about 3.6 nanofarads; the antenna 29 has an inductance value of about 447 microhenries; and the resistor 35 has a resistance value of about 22 ohms. The antenna 29 is mounted within the light source unit 21 so that its center ~~it~~ is about one inch from the center of the RFID tag 27.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032]   Figure 4 shows an embodiment of the light bulb assembly 22, illustrating how the RFID tag 27 can be affixed to it. The light bulb assembly 22 can be installed in the

light source unit 21 has as shown in Figure 5. The light bulb
assembly 22 includes a hollow cylindrical housing 41, a heat
sink installed within the interior of the housing 41, and the
light bulb 23, which is the light source of the light source
unit 21. The housing 41 is made of plastic and includes two
flat extensions 43 from the front and back of the lower
portion of its exterior surface, which provide a stable base
for the light bulb assembly 22. The heat sink comprises a
hollow metal cylindrical hub 45 and a number of flat metal
vanes 44 that extend radially from the hub 45 almost to the
interior surface of the housing 41. The light bulb 23 is
installed in the interior of the hub 45.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following
amended paragraph:

[0040]   Besides bulb usage hours, other types of information
may also be stored in the memory 37 within the RFID tag 27,
such as a password or other authentication data, which can be
used to protect the light source unit from external
interruptions for intrusions. Thus, the password may be used
to selectively enable or disable use of the light source unit.
As another example, the RFID tag 27 may store data identifying
the light bulb 23 or the light bulb assembly 22, (e.g., by
manufacturer, model number and serial number). As yet another
example, the microcontroller 26 may be configured to cause the
RF transceiver 28 to store in the RFID tag 27 data identifying
the light source unit 21 (e.g., by manufacturer, model number
and serial number). This data could then be used, for
example, by the manufacturer to determine whether the light
bulb assembly 22 has been used improperly in a light source
unit for which it is not qualified or compatible, if the light
bulb assembly 22 (or the entire light source unit 21) requires
service after a failure. The memory 37 in the RFID tag 27 can
also be used to store performance data relating to any one or
more components in the light source unit 21 (which may include
diagnostic data relating to operation or failure of the

component), which is not limited to the light bulb 23 or the light bulb assembly 22. This data can be used by the manufacturer to provide better service and to improve future product designs. Thus, essentially any kind of data can be stored in the RFID tag 27. In general, after the initial data is set in the RFID tag 27 by the manufacturer, the microcontroller 26 determines what data is stored in and read from the RFID tag 27 and when such data is stored or read, according to its programming.